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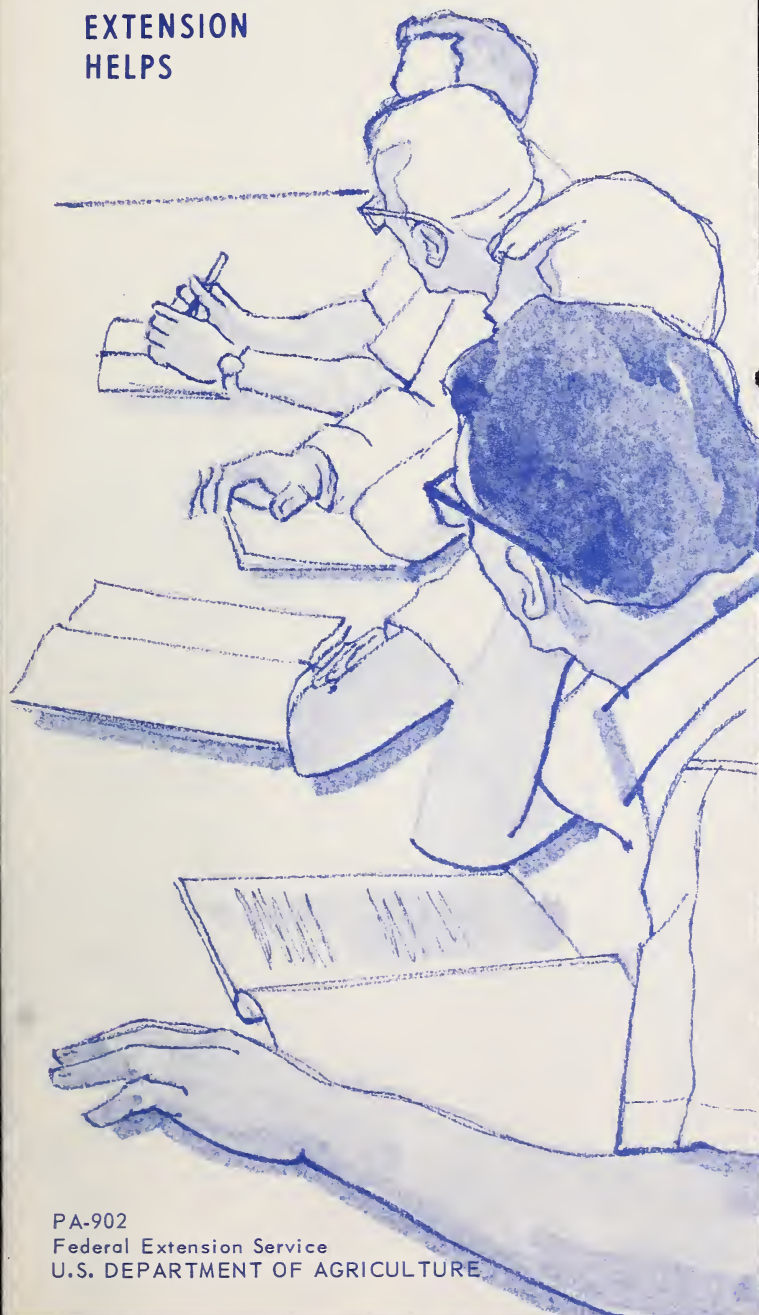
# COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION** is helping many community groups and local governments with resource development activities. It provides educational and organizational assistance to town and country communities in developing their resources.

Interested groups may get in touch with the local Extension staff for advice, or contact the area or district community resource development agents, who provide leadership on a multi-county basis.

These field offices are supported by a State staff of specialists who are available for counsel and technical assistance. They are usually located at the Land-Grant University.

Community Resource Development is a function of the Land-Grant University system. It is a part of the "off-campus" educational work that is administered through the Cooperative Extension Service in the 50 States, the territories, and the District of Columbia. The Cooperative Extension Service has direct responsibility to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the State through the Land-Grant University, and to county government.







# The Challenge

## TO COMMUNITIES OF TOMORROW

*Community Resource Development is education for action. It is a process whereby people of the community arrive at group decisions and take actions to enhance the social and economic well-being of their community.*

This process includes making an inventory of available resources, identifying problems and opportunities, and formulating plans to bring about change and the initiation of development projects and programs.

**OBJECTIVES** are to develop:

- HUMAN RESOURCES
- ECONOMIC RESOURCES
- COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES
- ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND CONSERVATION
- INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES

### CHANGING COMMUNITIES

Town and country communities are experiencing many changes. The old differences between rural and urban areas are rapidly disappearing. Electric power, modern communications and many other technological developments are bringing the cities and the country closer together.

As the population expands, the need for community planning and development is greater. Many town and country communities are being made ready to receive more people. This means a need for more jobs, more community facilities and public services, more attention to pollution and environmental controls, and more comprehensive planning.

Extension helps inform interested citizens, so that they can participate more effectively and make decisions to take action on community problems.

## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The highest development of its people is basic to the progress of any community. They need to understand their problems and opportunities. In turn, they must make decisions to take action, and find the ways and means for doing so. Extension assists this process by conducting educational programs to improve the understanding and ability of citizens to solve their community problems and to help them realize opportunities for improvement.

People need skills and competence to earn an adequate income. Extension agents can help with planning manpower training and development programs for the community.

Extension agents cooperate with 4-H and other youth leaders in training and other educational activities for young people.

Extension conducts workshops and short courses for training local government officials, operators and employees of business and industry, and civic leaders.

Progress and orderly change in the community depend on informed citizen leaders and a competent work force.





## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Creating new job opportunities is a major objective of community development. Jobs for the unemployed and better jobs for the underemployed are needed in many low-income areas.

Extension agents help community leaders formulate economic development programs as a basis for obtaining financial assistance for new and expanded rural industries. They help local governments and private organizations plan and organize industrial development corporations, industrial parks, cooperatives, and all types of local projects for expanding business and industry. Extension assists communities in making economic feasibility studies and in obtaining technical assistance from other agencies and educational institutions.

## **COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

Modern town and country communities need many new and improved public facilities and services. As communities grow, they need water systems, waste disposal systems, parks and recreational areas, land-use planning and zoning, cultural facilities, fire protection, and a host of other facilities and services. All need to be well planned and financed.

The people should recognize these needs and understand the ways and means to achieve them. Extension educational programs help involve leaders in appraising the needs in the community and in planning action programs.

The Extension staff aids local governments by conducting public affairs education about bond issues, increases in capital budgets, and comprehensive planning. They explain government financing and technical assistance programs to local leaders, and help them in meeting eligibility requirements. Extension's community development agents counsel with community leaders on all types of community problems and opportunities.



## **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND CONSERVATION**

Greater population density brings complex problems of land use and pollution. There is more need to take positive steps to maintain a high quality living environment. The conservation of natural resources and open space is fundamental to the livability of growing communities. Air, water, and soil must be kept free from many types of pollution that can make communities unfit for quality living. Natural beauty must be protected to improve environmental quality.

Extension uses seminars, workshops, and radio and television educational programs in public affairs to help people better understand community issues.

Resource Development agents aid citizen committees and other local groups in finding and using public and private resources to protect and develop the environment.

## **INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

In many places, county Extension staff members work directly with local governments, citizen committees, business and educational leaders, and local organizations. Their aim is to assist with developing more satisfactory institutional arrangements to better cope with community problems. Extension staffs motivate and assist local leaders and conduct educational programs on community problems and development opportunities. They assist in organizing citizen committees, development corporations, planning bodies, and other needed institutional arrangements.

Many communities need help in adjusting and updating institutions to more rapidly adapt to technological and population changes.

In this work, Extension cooperates with Federal agencies, State planning and development agencies, and private organizations. Extension staff members serve on Technical Action Panels composed of representatives of Federal, State, and local agencies and organizations.

## **DEMOCRACY IN ACTION**

The emphasis is on community leadership and citizen participation in all aspects of Extension's Community Resource Development work. *Involving all interest groups is fundamental.* If existing organizations are unable to represent all interests in the community, new and broadly representative citizen committees are organized. Volunteer community leaders are trained to carry out the educational planning and action role.

Extension serves as a motivator and catalyst. It assists and supports citizen deliberation and action. County and district agents draw upon many types of specialized knowledge from State Extension specialists and university departments and other sources. The aim is to help people help themselves.

## **EXTENSION EDUCATION IN COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

- Increases citizen understanding
- Identifies problems and opportunities
- Assists in planning for action
- Helps implement action

## **EXTENSION COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AGENTS WORK WITH:**

- Citizen groups and community leaders
- Private organizations and development corporations
- Federal, State, and local governments
- Radio, television, and press

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

- Contact the Director of Cooperative Extension at the State Land-Grant University
- Or the local County or District Extension Office.

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